

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, July 8. 1710.

I Stated the Case, in my Last, about what we are to call *The Sense of the Nation*. God send them better Advice, that take our present Addressees for *the Sense of the Nation*. The Language of them, the People that bring them, the Methods that procure them, would show any Body whether they are *the Sense of the Nation*, or no; and indeed if these things are *the Sense of the Nation* we must acknowledge it looks as if the Nation had *lost its Senses*; and thank God, and our wiser Ancestors, 'tis what NEVER was *the Sense of the Nation before*.

And now pray, Gentlemen High-Flyers, let us ask you a Question, Who do you speak to when you talk of the Sense of the

Nation? Either you speak to the People, or to the Prince: If to the People, you talk ridiculously. Can there be any need to tell the People what is their own Sense? Either they know it already, or they do not know it? If they know it, what need of telling them? If they do not know it, How is it *their Sense*? Unless the Nation is Ignorant of *what is their own Sense*. But perhaps you talk to your Prince? Very well done, to Teach your Sovereign before you know whether she wants to Learn! And which it is time enough to do, when you are call'd to be of her Privy-Council. Again, if you talk to the Queen of *the Sense of the Nation*, you give up your own Cause; you tacitely recognize the Peoples

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concern in the Government ; For if they have nothing to do in it, what signifies their Sense in the Matter, and what would you Teach her ? If your Doctrine of Non-Resistance and Absolute Subjection, be True, *What matters it to the Queen what is the Sense of her Subjects ?* 'Tis indeed the Business of the People to Enquire what is the Sense of their Sovereign, because they have no more to do but to submit to it ; but it is Nonsense to trouble the Queen with what is the Sense of Her People ; for her Majesty has nothing to do but to Command, and they must Submit, be it against Sense, Interest, Life, Property, Chastity, Honour, Religion, or any thing that Human Nature could invent, supposing our Prince were the greatest Tyrant in the Universe.

To say, to Talk or Resistance is to render the Crown precarious, is to Talk Nonsense. No Body doubts but that while the Sovereign Governs Legally, Non-Resistance is our Duty ; for to resist then, would be to Oppose, not *Governours*, but *Government*, which is the Ordinance of God. And, without doubt, this is what the Apostle means in his Scolding the Subjection to the Higher Power. But that this should extend it self to bind the Subject to a blind, absolute, uncondition'd Obedience to a Tyrant, in the very Act of Tyranny, to the Subversion of Constitutions, Laws, Liberty, and Establish'd Right, *Monstrum Horrendum !* Was ever Nation Bigotted to such a Length as this before ? What signifies Parliaments, Claims of Right, Laws of Government, Coronation-Oaths, and Constitutions of Kingdoms, if this be True ?

But above all it seems wonderful to me, That the Party now pushing the Nation's Fate, should be so Blind, so Infatuated, so intollerably Dull, to promise themselves such ridiculous Things as these from a *British* Parliament. Come, Gentlemen of the High-Church, pray put on your Spectacles, and look into your selves a little ; Suppose you were by your Mobbing and Bullying the *Whigs*, as is now the Work all over *England*, to gain your Point in all your Elections, and to Return such a

Parliament as you promise the Queen in your Addresses, *tho' by the Way you may make your Reckoning wrong there too, unless the honest Part of the Nation are too secure ; and one would think you have taken Pains enough to Alarm them :* But suppose, for Arguments sake, you could Return such a House as your Hearts desire, Do you think they would do your Work ? Do you think they would Answer your End ? No, 'tis Impossible.

To come a little closer, let us Enquire, 1. Can you ever Return a Parliament that will give up the Power of Parliamentary-Right ? 2. That will put the Right of Limitation of the Crown out of their Hands. And, 3. Disclaim their Authority to Settle the Succession ? Can you be so Blind to imagin, a Sett of Men can be found, who are Born to, and Possess Estates in this Island, that can be brought to Denude their Country of Her Glorious Robe of Liberty that has Adorn'd Her so many Ages ? Which is Embroider'd with the Blood of her Nobility, and Lac'd down with the Resignations of Subdu'd Tyrants ? Can you send up Representatives that will give up their Legislative Authority, and Restore the Superiority of the Crown above the Laws ? Flatter not your selves with those Notions. The Divinity of Hereditary-Right, the Illegality of Resisting Tyrants, will never be Recogniz'd, or the Parliamentary-Right of Limiting the Succession, be given up by a *British* Parliament. It may be obtain'd by Tyranny and Conquest, but it cannot be done by a Parliament ; no, not if they were all Disciples of the Devil, if they are but Men of Estates, and *Britains*. Again, the *Protestants* Religion Stands upon the Shoulders of this *Parliamentary-Right*. *Britains* and *Protestants* can never give it up ; and therefore the Wifest and most Understanding, even of these warm Gentlemen, begin already to Talk of Moderation ; and a Third Party that must carry the Balance between the Extreame on both sides ; and there it will go at last.

These Gentlemen know too well the Sense of the Nation, and what will be done when

when it comes to the Point : They cannot forget, that after all the Addresses to King *James*, in which they promised to Choose such Members as should comply with his Desires to take off the Penal Laws and Test, *Anglicè*, to let in Popery upon them; yet when they were Chosen, and came to pass a more *private Test*, which we call'd *Closetting*, none of them could be brought to it; no, not his own Pensioners; no, not the Officers of his Army: An Army we knew was Rais'd to Enslave us, and we fear'd was Qualify'd to do it: But they all Fail'd him, and so they will Fail this Party.

A Parliament give up Parliamentary-Right, Ridiculous! 'Tis against Nature! If a Parliament of Human *Devils* could be Chosen, they would not do it. People never give away themselves. They cannot be suppos'd to be so Distracted; and I wonder at the Folly of those that expect it.

Now as the Thing it self is absurd, so is the Method taken to bring it to pass, I mean that of Mobbing and Rabbling. These People seem to know little of the *English* Mob, and ought to look back into things a little: They have deluded some of the poor People a little; and by the Surface of things, and the Inferiour Clergy showing the wrong Side of every thing to them, have made their Notions Popular; and this they think to carry their Point by. But, alas, Truth cannot so long be smother'd in *England* as it can be in *France*. Our People are naturally Inquisitive, and they will be for Looking into Causes, Questioning Circumstances, and Asking Reasons of Things; and there will be some found, who will, in spite of a Threatning Party, venture to undeceive their Neighbours; and when this comes about, alas, the poor People will be quite of another Mind, and will Overthrow all this *Babel* themselves.

For this Reason, tho' I would have no Body secure, yet I Fear not. Let them prevail never so far at first, they will undo all again at last, and all will revert to Liberty again; and let them look to it, Liberty, like a *rolling Stone*, will go over the Belly's

of the Party, and Crush them all to an Equality with their Neighbours.

And indeed I cannot but wonder a little at these Gentlemen, that Promise *somebody* such fine Things upon the TURN they propose, why do they not prevent the Falling of Stocks, and Sinking of the Publick Credit, which is apparent upon the very Prospect of it? Why do they not Assure her Majesty, they will keep up the Value of the Funds, and maintain the Actions of the Bank and Companies, that the Trade may receive *no Obstruction*, and the Exchequer *no Blow* by the Alteration? Let them look back to the Time when their Party was put out of the Administration; they shall find there was no Danger then, no Stock fell upon their going out; when they were Dismiss'd, *the Sense of the Nation* appear'd; and the People were so glad of the *Turn*, they brought their Money cheerfully into every Fund, and the Credit of Stock rose just as fast as it fell.

Now let them come to *Exchange-Alley*, and give Premiums to take Stock at the present Price; when the Parliament shall be Dissolv'd, let them agree to have the Stock put upon them at an Advance; when the Ministry is Chang'd, let them engage to Circulate the Exchequer-Bills at *Par*; and take off the Annuities at 16 Years Purchase; let them agree to accept the Bank-Stock at 126, and to give 1 per Cent. for Seal'd Bills; I warrant they shall find People enough to Contract with them.

If they will back their Cause, like Brave Fellows, *this is the way*; and let them put *the Sense of the Nation* upon this Tryal: If they can't do it, if things run down in spite of them, any Body may know *the Sense of the Nation* without looking upon their strain'd, sulsome, and absurd Addresses for it. A Practice that has Cheated so many already, I wonder they can expect to impose upon the Queen by them! A Jest that was put upon *Richard Cromwell*, and yet they Depo'd him in three Weeks after it. It was a second Time put upon King *James* the Second, and they all flew in his Face in a Year after it: And I could give some instances of the little Value that has been

been put upon it since; even such, that one would think the very People themselves expect, that for time to come, Addressing should pass for nothing with their Princes.

THE Author of this Paper having receiv'd many importunate Letters a long time, pressing him to go on with his so often promis'd Discourses upon Trade—Gives this Notice,

That having often Essay'd to carry on a continu'd Discourse of Trade in this Paper, but been unavoidably prevented by the Fury of the Times, an unhappiness the Author did not foresee when this Work was undertaken—

And finding it impossible to have his Essays upon Trade pursu'd in this Paper, in such an uninterrupted Manner as a Subject of that Consequence requires; some Gentlemen, who desire that Work to be carried on, have made

a Proposal, For the Writing a REVIEW to be entirely taken up upon the Subject of Trade, with a Miscellany, or a Part reserv'd to handle particular Cases in Trade—And expressly condition'd not to meddle with Matters of State, Divisions of Parties, or any thing relating to the Affairs of Government, Civil or Ecclesiastick.

This Work is Propos'd to be Subscrib'd by such Gentlemen as think fit to encourage it, 'till it may be able to support it self; in which the Author hopes he may please you all, and may have an Opportunity to lay down the unpleasant Subject of the Nation's Divisions; a Thing he has long desir'd to do.

The Proposals shall be Publish'd in this Paper, as soon as it is brought to a Conclusion. Mean time, any Gentlemen that are willing to Encourage such a Work, may let the Author know it by Letter, or such Method as they think fit.

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